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Facilities: Carl & Pauline Branham
Treasurer: Chuck Huffman
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Worship Committee Chair/
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Session: Kaye Baird
Marcia Little
Wada Meade
Les Ronning
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Pikeville

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026



"Remember that you are dust, and dust to dust you shall return."

~Ecclesiastes 3:20



* All who are able may stand.
Congregation speaks bolded lines

Gathering Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.
For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and make us a new creation.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation.
O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise!
Let us worship God!

*Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

#339

*Ash Wednesday Prayer

Merciful God, we come to this season in need of repair. Help our weakness to be our strength, as it makes us more aware of our need for you. Let the Spirit be our guide as we journey with Christ and seek to follow him. Help us breathe in the Spirit, move in Christ's ways, and live into your call. Forgive us Lord. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Message

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Imposition of Ashes

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Ash Wednesday Service:

What is Ash Wednesday service?

Ash Wednesday services include the outward symbol of our humanity and our need for repentance – ashes that are imposed on worshippers' foreheads. Often the ashes are from the burning of palms from the prior Palm Sunday. While we often think of the penitence of Lent as a personal (private) and inward matter, a service of worship on Ash Wednesday gives churchgoers the opportunity to repent as a community, to pray together, to enact the ritual of the imposition of ashes in public, to make their commitment to a Lenten discipline together, and to realize that no one is alone on the journey. We wear the ashes of sin and repentance collectively as well as individually.



Ideas for Lenten Practices:

- Use a Lenten daily or weekly devotional. Read it first thing in the morning or before you go to bed.
- Think about not just “giving up” for Lent. Take something on—40 acts of kindness, 40 phone calls to the important people in your life, 40 days of reaching out to those in need.
- Read the Works of Mercy as Jesus describes them in Matthew 25:31-46. Then put this teaching into practice and choose an act of service you can perform throughout Lent.
- Set a reminder on your phone to pray 2-3 times throughout your day when you wouldn't normally. Use this time to talk to God, pray about people you encounter, the need you see, and where you see God with you on your daily journey. Some apps and devotionals offer guided prayers.
- Think about what you usually spend your money on . Do you buy too many clothes? Spend too much on dinner out? Pick one expenditure that you'll “fast” from during Lent, and then give the money you would usually spend to a local charity.
- Read more scripture. A daily devotional can help supplement, guide, and lead you as you reflect upon what you've read..
- Unplug from your iPhone, Apple Watch, or turn off the radio on your commute. The silence may be jarring at first, but you may find that you are able to concentrate better and will be more observant of your surroundings. This can help us become more aware of God's presence and center us in prayer.

Lenten Fasting



What am I being called to fast?

Why am I fasting?

What is my goal during this fast?

Bible verse:

3 things I am grateful for...

1

2

3

What challenge does this bring?

What peace or revelation will this bring?

Fasting Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I come to you in humility and surrender, seeking Your guidance and direction in my life. I am fasting to seek Your will and to experience breakthrough in the areas where I need it most. I know that I cannot do this alone, and I need Your help and guidance every step of the way. Lord, I ask You to reveal any areas of my life that need to be surrendered to You. Help me to let go of anything that is hindering my relationship with You and to trust in Your perfect plan and timing for my life. I pray for breakthrough in my finances, my relationships, my health, my career, and my spiritual growth.

I pray for strength and encouragement to persevere through this fast, even when it is challenging. I ask You to help me grow in my faith and dependence on You, and to deepen my relationship with You during this time.

Lord, I pray for healing and restoration in my life and in the lives of those around me. I ask You to heal any physical, emotional, or spiritual wounds and to bring comfort and peace to those who are struggling.

I pray for wisdom and understanding, that You would help me to understand Your Word more deeply and to gain insight into Your character and ways. I ask You to help me discern Your will for my life and to make wise decisions that honor You.

I pray for forgiveness and repentance, confessing my sins and asking You to help me turn away from them and to live a life that honors You. I ask You to help me grow in holiness and righteousness, and to be a shining light for Your Kingdom.

Lord, I trust in Your provision and Your faithfulness. I know that You are able to do far more than I could ever ask or imagine, and I ask You to work powerfully in my life during this fast. I pray all these things in the powerful name of Jesus,

Amen.